

Listing of Claims:**Claims 1-96 (cancelled)**

Claim 97 (new) An appliance door latch for retaining a striker member, the latch comprising:

a latch frame affixable to a portion of the appliance;

a carrier member held by the latch frame to move between first and second positions;

a spring biasing the carrier member toward the second position;

a gripping member supported by the carrier member to move with the carrier member and rotate with respect to the carrier member about a rotational axis, the gripping member rotating to capture a portion of the striker member in a capture position when the striker member enters an opening formed in the gripping member and rotating to release the striker member in a release position when the striker member exits the opening;

a stop device cooperating with the gripping member to hold the carrier member in the first position with the spring in a high state of inner tension when the gripping member is in the release position and to release the carrier member to the second position with the spring in a lower state of inner tension when the gripping member rotates to the capture position, the stop device providing a contact portion for rolling contact with the gripping member;

wherein the stop device includes one or more antifriction bearings to support the contact portion for rotation with respect to the latch frame.

Claim 98 (new) An appliance door latch as claimed in claim 97 wherein the stop device includes a pin forming the contact portion at its outer circumferential surface and rotatably supported at its ends by antifriction bearings.

Claim 99 (new) An appliance door latch as claimed in claim 97 wherein the stop device comprises an axle fixedly supported by the latch frame and having mounted thereon an antifriction bearing rotatably supporting the contact portion.

Claim 100 (new) An appliance door latch as claimed in claim 97 wherein the spring is a compression spring.

Claim 101 (new) An appliance door latch for retaining a striker member, the latch comprising:

- a latch frame affixable to a portion of the appliance;

- a catch assembly held by the latch frame for movement with respect to the latch frame, the catch assembly moving to capture the striker member in a retention position when the striker member enters an opening formed in a gripping member of the catch assembly and moving to release the striker member in a disengagement position when the striker member exits the opening;

- a spring biasing the catch assembly wherein the spring is in a low state of inner tension when the catch assembly is in the retention position and is in a higher state of inner tension when the catch assembly is in the disengagement position;

- wherein the catch assembly includes a portion urged into rolling contact with a portion of the latch frame by a force of the spring and moving with respect to the latch frame portion during movement of the catch assembly between the retention and disengagement positions; and

one or more antifriction bearings to rotatably support at least one of the contacting portions of the catch assembly and latch frame.

Claim 102 (new) An appliance door latch for retaining a striker member, the latch comprising:

a latch frame affixable to a portion of the appliance;

a catch assembly held by the latch frame for movement with respect to the latch frame, the catch assembly moving to capture the striker member in a retention position when the striker member enters an opening formed in a gripping member of the catch assembly and moving to release the striker member in a disengagement position when the striker member exits the opening;

a spring biasing the catch assembly wherein the spring is in a low state of inner tension when the catch assembly is in the retention position and is in a higher state of inner tension when the catch assembly is in the disengagement position;

wherein the catch assembly includes first and second portions urged into rolling contact with each other by a force of the spring and moving with respect to each other during movement of the catch assembly between the retention and disengagement positions; and

one or more antifriction bearings to rotatably support at least one of the first and second portions of the catch assembly.